

puts God on the throne, whose home is her holiest, whose children are God-given charges to train for eternity, and who hears the divine call to serve a still larger need, that woman will fail in neither undertaking. Why? Because she is not self-centred, and will therefore be all around disengaged—swinging free, so that each hour she can turn to that hour's one imperative voice.

We believe that many a mother, truly called to some special work for God, or other homes or native land, and truly answering, has come to fail in one place or the other, because, imperceptibly, self crept in—ambition of some kind—and she became confused, followed here when she should have gone there, until all the machinery has become out of order, home is unhappy, husband and children defrauded, bright hopes in the other service blasted, and the sufferer herself breaking down under the physical, mental, and spiritual strain—a woman whose primal purpose was pure but who has been beguiled.

Mothers, we must be free! Keep yourselves "disengaged." Shut self out by letting God—who is Love—rule within.

We know a lovely home where father, mother and a group of lovely children make all glad who see them. The mother is a writer of growing power. Some one visiting there sends this testimony out concerning her: If you were to meet A—you would be as much in love with her as you are with her stories, and you would wonder, as I do, how she finds time to write. She does her housework alone, save for what help her husband—also a writer—can give her. She has the sole care of her three children who are never neglected. She finds time to make neighbourly calls, and to send the daintiest baskets and dishes of fruit grown at Quillcroft to her friends.

"Doe ye nexte thynge!" And only He who guides His children in all things can tell the individual worker what is the next thing. A life that is not self-centred is God-centred, and from that centre all things work out in harmony.

One more point. How often we are wounded at the statement that the children of preachers and reformers fall away from the high standards their parents represent. There is no abiding truth in this, thank God! True, we have heard young people say, with a significant toss of the head: "Do you think I would be a preacher?" "Marry a preacher? Never!" "No

W.C.T.U. work for me!" "You'll never catch me going out to reform the world. These reformers——!"

On the other hand, how large a host of earnest workers on the public platform have followed in the footsteps of father and mother. The "disengaged" parent we have been writing about will never drive her children away from her calling. Only Mrs Jellyby's poor little ones hate their enforced philanthropy and wait for days of maturity when they may jeer at it all and turn away. The woman who does the work God gives will never turn her children from unselfish work for others. The woman who neglects her holy calling of motherhood for self-made engagements prepares for herself almost inevitably this sorrow. Not only are her children liable to turn away from the paths of service, but scornful of professed nobleness, will turn to ignoble paths themselves.

God keep us free to serve as He shall direct.—*Union Signal.*

NEWS OF THE UNIONS

[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

Greymouth.

At the meeting held on Nov. 2nd a good amount of business was transacted. Our active and energetic treasurer is taking a long holiday, and Mrs Sweetman was therefore appointed to the office, *pro tem.* Mrs Peter Nelson was requested to supply literature to the newly-erected shelter shed on the wharf. Ships in harbour had been visited and railway boxes supplied with literature during the month. On Nov. 16th the Union met to spend a social hour before saying good-bye to Mrs Jameson, who is removing to Wellington. Mrs Jameson was one of the first five who formed the Greymouth Union, and we shall greatly miss her faithful services.

A Y has been started at Cobden under the auspices of our Union and is likely to be very successful. The meetings are held fortnightly, and a large number of young men and women have joined.

L.T.L.—On Nov. 17th the L.T.L. gave an entertainment to a crowded audience. The children (about 70) acquitted themselves splendidly in recitations, songs, and action-songs, and

looked very pretty with their white dresses and bouquets of flowers. To Mrs Gaskin and Miss Batchelor is due the credit of so well training the little people.

Colyton.

At our meeting, held on Nov. 8th, the last meeting before the general election, the electoral roll was examined, and it was arranged that members should see the people whose names were found wanting. Our President read extracts from "Hold the Fort, or Practical Suggestions for Abstainers," by Mary Pryor Hack. "Taking it Medicinally," from *Wings* (October, 1899), was read by the Secretary.

Hamilton.

Our meetings are held fortnightly, and our numbers are gradually increasing. We are taking up earnestly any work we find to do—such as hospital and other sick visiting. Of course the principal work at present is preparing for the election, placing fresh names on the roll, and trying to influence voters in the right direction. We are doing our best to return a temperance candidate. Literature is being distributed, and some of our members also help in the meetings of the Christian Mission in our town. At the annual meeting most of our officers were re-elected.

Woodend.

Great disappointment is felt at the result of the poll—lost "No License" by nine votes. Ladies worked very hard, both during the weeks before and on the day.

The Annual meeting was held on Nov. 30th. All the officers were re-elected, with the exception of the President, Mrs Griffin, who has resigned through lack of time. Mrs Henry Judson is our new President, and promises to be a very able and energetic officer. Meetings have so far been held fortnightly, and the interest is well sustained.

Invercargill.

On Nov. 23rd the members held a social to welcome Miss Kirk to Invercargill. Invitations had been sent to the ministers, their wives, and all the most prominent Temperance workers. Although the afternoon was very wet, a good number attended, and a most enjoyable time was spent. Mr Baxter, as secretary of the "No License League," introduced Miss Kirk. Mrs Macalister, the President, gave Miss Kirk a most cordial welcome on behalf of the members of the Union, and the